



## Sealaska Scholarship Program Guidelines

Academic Year 2024-2025: **August 1, 2024** through **July 31, 2025**; or beginning with fall term and ending with the spring term. To qualify for funding, courses must take place during this time frame.

The Sealaska Scholarship Program, which is administered by Sealaska Heritage Institute (SHI) awards academic scholarships for undergraduate, graduate and vocational studies at accredited institutions based on the SHI Scholarship Policy and the following eligibility and guidelines:

### Deadline

- Online application must be complete with all required documentation uploaded by **March 1, 2024**. Applications cannot be finished after the **March 1, 2024** deadline. Incomplete applications will not be considered.
- Official transcripts must be received by SHI by **March 1, 2024**. Copies, faxes and transcripts sent by students will not be considered.

NOTE: SHI recommends that applicants request an official transcript immediately as they often take a week or more to obtain. More often applicants are denied scholarships because the transcript was not received by SHI by the **March 1** deadline.

- Students who upload applications and all required documentation by **February 1, 2024** will receive an early bird incentive of \$50 added to their award.

### Eligibility

In order to qualify, individuals must meet the following criteria:

- Alaska Native
- Enrolled to Sealaska Corporation, OR are Native lineal descendants of an Alaska Native enrolled to Sealaska Corporation.
- Accepted and enrolled in an accredited postsecondary educational institution.
- Have a cumulative GPA of 2.0 for undergraduate, and 3.0 for graduate.

## New and Continuing Student Requirements

### Official Transcripts

- Official Transcripts/Transcript Request Receipt must be received by SHI by **March 1, 2024**.
- Copies, faxes and transcripts sent directly from students will not be considered.
- The transcript must be from the most recently attended school, whether high school or college.

### New Applicant Required Documents

#### Native identification

- Photocopy of your certificate of Indian Blood from the Bureau of Indian Affairs, OR
- Photocopy of your tribal enrollment card from a federally-recognized Alaska Native tribe showing your blood quantum.

#### Photocopy of your Birth Certificate

- Photocopy of your birth certificate. If your grandparent is the shareholder, you will also need your parent's birth certificate. **DO NOT SEND ORIGINAL.** (Birth cards are NOT accepted.)

### Renewal Limits

- Each renewal is competitive, and recipients must reapply each year.
- Renewal of scholarship awards are limited to the following:
  - Six awards toward a bachelor's degree;
  - Three awards toward a master's degree;
  - Two awards toward a doctorate;
  - Three awards for vocational scholarships
- Renewal is limited to nine years combined.
- Scholarship recipients are eligible for only one Sealaska scholarship award per year.

### Selection and Award Criteria

Scholarship awards are based on the following criteria:

- Grades: An applicant's academic performance. A GPA of 2.0 will be required to be considered. (A=4.0; B=3.0; C=2.0; D=1.0; below D=0)
- Class Standing: (Freshman, Sophomore, Junior, Senior, Masters, Doctorate, Voc-Tech)
- Multiple Questions demonstrating knowledge of Southeast Alaska Native cultures and history.

## Terms and Conditions

### 1. Submission of Applications

I understand that to qualify for a scholarship I must obtain and complete a current Student Application by **March 1, 2024** (all applications must be completed and submitted online, paper versions will not be accepted).

I understand that applications cannot be completed after **March 1, 2024** and incomplete applications will not be considered for a scholarship award. (You are encouraged to save a screenshot of the submission page of the application after it has been submitted.)

I understand that to qualify for a scholarship that I must order an official school transcript from my school in time for it to reach SHI by the **March 1, 2024** deadline.

I understand that I must reapply each year to be considered for the following academic year.

I understand that to qualify for the early bird incentive of \$50 added to awards that I must complete the application, including the reference and transcripts, by **February 1, 2024**.

## 2. Scholarship Award

The award is divided equally into trimester (3) or semester (2) payments.

I understand that the scholarship award is for students who maintain at least a cumulative GPA of 2.0 for undergraduate and 3.0 for graduate.

Students who fall below the required GPA will be placed on probation. Students are given one term to return to 2.0 or 3.0 respectively or higher GPA.

I understand that if I receive a full-time student award, I must be enrolled for a full-time course load (typically 12 credit hours undergraduate, 9 credit hours graduate).

I understand that if I receive a part-time award, I must be enrolled in at least 2 courses and that my award amount may be reduced.

I understand that I must be enrolled in an accredited postsecondary educational institution, where accredited means accredited by a national accreditation association or the regional accreditation association for the area where the school is located, that is recognized by the Secretary of Education of the United States Department of Education.

## 3. Grade Transcripts and Certificate of Completion

I understand that immediately upon completion of my degree or vocational-technical certificate, I will submit a certificate of completion to the SHI Scholarship Program Office.

#### 4. Notification of Changes and Penalties

I understand that I am responsible for immediately notifying SHI via email of any changes to my school, full and part time status, or enrollment status.

I understand that a \$50 penalty fee may be charged against my award if SHI is required to re-issue another check because of failure to notify SHI of any changes prior to its disbursement of awards. To avoid penalty fees, students must notify SHI in writing of any changes at least two weeks in advance of SHI issuance of checks (see dates below).

#### 5. Appeals

I understand that if I am denied a scholarship award and believe that I have grounds to appeal the process, I must submit a written appeal, by December 1 of the academic year in which the award is made, to the SHI Scholarship Committee at [scholarship@sealaska.com](mailto:scholarship@sealaska.com).

#### 6. Important Dates

December 15, 2023	Application becomes available
February 1, 2024	Early Bird Incentive Deadline
March 1, 2024	Scholarship Application/Documentation Deadline
May 1, 2024	Scholarship Recipients selected
August 26, 2024	Fall Term checks mailed out
January 13, 2025	Winter Term checks mailed out (trimester students only)
January 20, 2025	Spring Term checks mailed out

